

## Revised Summary of California Recreational Action Alternatives for 2007-2008 Groundfish Regulations

Note: These alternatives represent the range of alternatives that California is presenting at the June Council meeting. The final preferred alternative need only be within this range but not necessarily exactly one of these options.

### **Action Alternative 1 (Low):**

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 1 include the following:

#### Option 1

- A statewide one-fish bocaccio sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- Lingcod daily bag limit of 1 fish, but with a minimum size limit of 22 inches.
- California scorpionfish can be retained January through February shoreward of 40 fm and March through December shoreward of 30 fm.

#### Option 2

- Bocaccio sublimit included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit unchanged from No Action Alternative.
- Lingcod daily bag limit of 1 fish, but with a minimum size limit of 22 inches.
- California scorpionfish can be retained January through February shoreward of 40 fm and March through December shoreward of 30 fm.

### **Action Alternative 2 (mid):**

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 2 include the following:

- A statewide two-fish greenling sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- California scorpionfish can be retained January through August shoreward of 40 fm, September through October shoreward of 30 fm, and November through December shoreward of 60 fm.

### **Action Alternative 3 (hi):**

California recreational groundfish management measures that differ from status quo under Action Alternative 3 include the following:

- A statewide two-fish greenling sublimit is included in the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- A statewide two-fish bag limit for bocaccio within the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, and March.
- California scorpionfish can be retained January through February shoreward of 40 fm and March through December shoreward of 60 fm.

**Status Quo:** 2005-2006 California recreational management measures as follows:

- Regulations apply to groundfish (with sanddab fishery exception) and associated state-managed species (rock greenling, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish).
- The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations (size #2 hooks or smaller), is exempt from the season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally-managed groundfish.
- Retention of species in the Other Flatfish complex is allowed when fishing with size #2 hooks or smaller ( $\leq 11$  mm from point to shank) for Pacific sanddabs.
- Lingcod size limit of 24 inches with a daily bag limit of two fish.
- Within a general bag limit of 20 fish, a combined rockfish + cabezon + greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit of 10 fish of which one can be a cabezon and one can be a greenling of the genus *Hexagrammos*.
- A two-fish bag limit for bocaccio in the northern RLMA (north of 40°10' N latitude to the Oregon/California border at 42° N latitude) and a one fish bag limit south of 40°10' N latitude to the U.S./Mexico border within the 10-fish RCG daily bag limit.
- No retention of cowcod, canary, or yelloweye rockfish.
- Notwithstanding other fishing opportunities for groundfish, lingcod may not be retained during January, February, March, and December.
- All divers (use of boats is permitted while diving for rockfish or other closed species during closed periods provided no hook and line gear on board or in possession while diving to catch rockfish) and shore-based anglers would be exempt from the seasonal closures and depth restrictions for rockfish, greenlings, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and ocean whitefish.
- Fishing is allowed within the Cowcod Conservation Area shoreward of the 20 fm line when fishing is open for groundfish other than California scorpionfish, but including select non-groundfish species (California sheephead and ocean whitefish).